

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) announced today that over \$104 million in proposed emergency education funding has been released for schools in San Antonio to help save education-related jobs and maintain programs for low-income students and students with disabilities.

Nationwide, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$13 billion in Title I funds, which helps low-income students, and \$13.5 billion in IDEA funds, which helps students with disabilities. This is the first of two installments of direct funding for Title I and IDEA programs that for school districts will receive under President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; the second installment of funds will be released to districts in the fall of this year.

"The Recovery and Reinvestment funding being released to the San Antonio School Districts demonstrates a sincere commitment to our students and allocates appropriate resources needed to invest in education and ensure our country is on track for success in the future. The millions of dollars directed to San Antonio area schools make a strong and serious commitment to education in America. This funding is key to maintaining a strong and competitive workforce in the ever growing global economy. As we move forward on the budget we plan to match the President's increase in education funding for targeted services that will raise student achievement using both proven practices and innovative approaches that bring more of the community into cooperative efforts to educate our children." said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20).

In addition to the Title I and IDEA investments, the economic recovery plan also created a state stabilization fund to help stabilize state and local budgets and restore harmful cuts to education. Along with announcing the release of funding for local districts, the Obama administration also issued guidelines today to clarify how these funds must be used to help clear up recent confusion over whether the state can decide how local districts and colleges use those funds. States can also now apply for this funding.

The guidelines confirm that while states allocate the funds, it should be up to local school districts and colleges and universities to decide how to use this emergency aid, not up to states. The guidelines also reaffirmed that state stabilization funds should be used for three purposes: to backfill harmful cuts to K-12 and higher education, to stave off teacher layoffs, and to modernize school facilities – which could create new jobs.

IDEA is the major federal program that provides funding for special education and related services to students with disabilities. The Title I program provides funds to low-income school districts that are in even greater need during the economic downturn. The funds appropriated through the Recovery Plan are distributed through the previously defined IDEA and Title I formulas.

The following are the estimated funding totals by school district of Title I and IDEA funding provided by the recovery package to Congressman Gonzalez's congressional district:

- San Antonio Independent School District: \$39,112,000
- South San Antonio Independent School District: \$4,682,000
- Southwest Independent School District: \$5,020,000
- North East Independent School District: \$20,711,000
- Northside Independent School District: \$26,866,000
- Edgewood Independent School District: \$7,897,000
- Lackland Independent School District: \$83,000 (IDEA funds)

For more information on the education spending in the recovery package, [click here](#).

To view the guidance issued by the Department of Education, [click here](#).

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